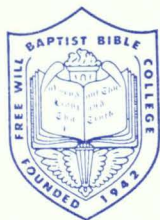


The
S. E. Mo. Yearly Meeting
of
Free Will Baptists

1943

Proceedings of the
1943 Annual Session

Convened at
Flat River Church
Flat River, Missouri



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Harvey Hill

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting held at the Flat River Church, August 18-20, 1943.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called to order by moderator, Rev. Mark Lewis.

Song service led by Rev. J. F. Miller.

A temporary committee on Divine Service was appointed by moderator as follows: Eunice Miller, Opal Hughes, and Christine Dees.

After more singing, and prayer by Rev. C. B. Dees, the Divine Service Committee reported Rev. F. C. Zinn to preach at eleven o'clock, Thursday 19th.

Rev. James Barker delivered a wonderful soul stirring message.

Services closed by Bro. O. B. Womack.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order by moderator.

Song service.

Scripture read from 1 Cor. 13, by Rev. C. B. Dees.

Prayer by Rev. Wm. Reeves.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Yearly Meeting were read by the moderator.

Letters from Madison county and St. Francis county Quarterly Meetings were read and delegates seated.

Corresponding messenger was called for and none present.

Election of officers as follows: Moderator, Rev. Mark Lewis; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Wm. Reeves; Secretary-Treasurer, O. B. Womack.

Report of Yearly Meeting Board read and accepted.

Conference was called to prayer for God's leadership the coming year, led by Rev. J. F. Miller.

A Committee on Committees was appointed as follows: Rev. J. F. Miller, Rev. C. B. Dees, and Rev. Wm. Reeves:

Recess of ten minutes was called.

THURSDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Called to order by moderator.

Song service.

Committee reports read as follows:

Business Committee — J. F. Miller, Elmer Steagall, Alvin Halbrooks, Erma Berry and Effie Matthews.

Divine Committee — Eunice Miller, Opal Hughes, and Christine Dees.

Denominational Enterprise — C. B. Dees, F. C. Zinn, Albert Halbrooks, Alma Graff, and Helen McGraw.

Obituary Committee — Alta Matthews, Erma Berry, and Opal Hughes.

Credential Committee — Eunice Miller, Vada Reeves, and Eunice Cleaver.

Rev. F. C. Zinn brought a soul stirring message from 2 Cor. 5:20; subject, "Ambassadors for Christ."

Closed by song and prayer.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called to order by moderator with singing, scripture reading and prayer.

St. Francois County Sunday School Convention report was read and accepted.

League report, read and accepted.

Rev. J. F. Miller was asked to explain our National Associational Program by Denominational Enterprises.

Partial report of Business Committee was read and received for discussion.

Motion to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Friday.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called to order by moderator with singing.

Prayers by Rose Ann Lewis and Eunice Miller.

Special songs by Rev. and Mrs. Zinn and also Rose Ann Lewis.

The message was delivered by Rev. C. B. Dees. Subject, "Tarry Ye," a good spiritual message was delivered.

Closed by prayer.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by moderator with singing.

Devotional service led by Rev. Effie Matthews.

Scripture lesson was read from St. John 14.

Prayer was offered by Sister Matthews.

Responsive reading by moderator and congregation.
The minutes of Thursday's sessions were read and accepted.

Partial report of Committee on Denominational Enterprises, that we endorse the recommendations of last year and carry them out in their churches. Motion carried to accept the report.

Motion carried to adopt this recommendation.
Short recess was called.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Services began with Rev. J. F. Miller in charge of singing.

Prayer by Bro. John Keeney.

Special song by Rev. Zinn, "I'm a Child of the King."

The message was delivered by Rev. Alvin Halbrooks.

Scripture reading, Acts 7. A very encouraging message was delivered.

Dismissed for dinner hour.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called to order by moderator with singing.

Prayer by Sister Alma Graff.

Devotional service led by Rev. Albert Halbrooks.

Special song by three girls, "Have Faith God."

Scripture read by moderator from 2 Tim. 3.

Minutes of the morning session were read and accepted.

Final report of the Business Committee.

Motion carried to accept the report.

A tabled question, that of the recommendation from the Business Committee that this Yearly Meeting recommend to the Missouri State Association the creation of the Office of an Executive Secretary of the State of Missouri, was thoroughly discussed and a motion carried to recommend same to the State Association this fall.

The ministerial reports were read by the clerk and the moderator ordered that they be given to the Committee on Credentials for investigation.

The Business Committee asked that the minutes of the Ministers' Conference be printed along with the Yearly Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried to accept the request.

The statistical report of the work and of the churches in our Yearly Meeting were read and accepted.

Bro. O. B. Womack was re-elected as statistician for the new church year, 1943-1944.

The Home Mission report was read and accepted.

The financial report of all money received and paid out since the Yearly Meeting in 1942, was read and accepted by the body.

Motion carried that Bro. Mark Lewis preach the introductory sermon at the next session of Yearly Meeting and that Rev. S. A. Hand be his alternate.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Benediction by moderator.

O. B. Womack, secretary-treasurer
Mark Lewis, moderator.

ASSOCIATIONAL DIRECTORY

Association Officers

Moderator	Rev. Mark Lewis	2043 Sidney St., St. Louis, Mo.
Ass't. Mod.	Rev. Wm. Reeves	Fredericktown, Mo.
Clerk-Stat.	O. B. Womack	Leadington, Mo.

Executive Board

Rev. C. B. Dees	Desloge, Mo.
Rev. J. L. Yancey	Fredericktown, Mo.
Rev. Wm. Reeves	123 East Marvin Ave., Fredericktown, Mo.

Ordained Ministers

Jas. F. Miller	Flat River, Mo.
C. B. Dees	Desloge, Mo.
Effie Matthews	Desloge, Mo.
Claud Lincoln	St. Louis, Mo.
J. M. Henderson	Fredericktown, Mo.
Chas. Miller	St. Louis, Mo.
Mark Lewis	St. Louis, Mo.
Eunice Edwards	St. Louis, Mo.
S. A. Hand	Fredericktown, Mo.
Joe Deweese	St. Louis, Mo.
Wm. Reeves	Mine La Motte, Mo.
W. Matthews	Mine La Motte, Mo.
Chas. Moyer	Leadington, Mo.

Sam Gill	St. Louis, Mo.
John Long	Patton, Mo.
G. Miller	Fredericktown, Mo.
J. L. Yancey	Fredericktown, Mo.
F. C. Zinn	Fredericktown, Mo.
D. S. Jones	St. Genevieve, Mo.
Albert Halbrook	Leadington, Mo.
Alvin Halbrook	Leadington, Mo.
Willard Halbrook	Leadington, Mo.
Wm. Baldwin	Robertson, Mo.
James Barker	Flat River, Mo.

Superannuated Ministers

L. N. Beard	Bismarck, Mo.
Chas. Canterberry	Knob Lick, Mo.
J. D. Flannery	Farmington, Mo.
Chas. Wood	Fredericktown, Mo.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Number of churches July 1, 1942	15
Number of churches reporting	14
State of religion	Good
Number of churches without pastors	None
Membership July 1, 1942	1402
Number of new churches received	None
Number of churches disbanded	None
Number of members received July 1, 1942 to July 1, 1943 ..	47
Number baptized	27
Number dismissed by letter	15
Number of members excluded	2
Number of members deceased	12
Number of resident members	1057
Number of non-resident members	378
Number of churches July 1, 1943	15
Total membership July 1, 1943	1435
Number of prayer meetings	14
Number of tithers	63
Number of leagues	9
League membership	364
Number of Sunday Schools	14
Sunday school enrollment	1208
Number of Sunday school officers	57

Number of Sunday school teachers	78
Number of Home Missions	9
Home Mission Membership	114
Number of ordained ministers	29
Number of licensed ministers	10
Number of ordained deacons	47
Amount paid pastors	\$7106.54
Amount paid for evangelistic work	\$1018.70
Amount paid for building and repairs	\$2114.10
Amount paid for incidentals	\$1827.45
Value of church property	\$32,255.00
Amount for Foreign Missions	\$407.20
Amount for Home Missions	\$647.50
Amount for Education	\$771.73
Amount for Superannuation	None
Amount for publications (S. S. literature, etc.)	\$770.88
Amount for Unified Fund	\$30.38
Amount for Budget money	\$41.60

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISE—We recommend that we indorse last year's recommendations and carry them out in our churches.

Item No. 1—We recommend that each church in this Yearly Meeting take a special offering each month to be used for the school at Nashville, Tennessee.

Item No. 2—We recommend that each church in this Yearly Meeting take an offering on a designated Sunday each month for Foreign Missions for the coming year.

Item No. 3—We recommend that this Yearly Meeting adopt the recommendations of the National Home Mission Board and give the sum of \$1.00 per month to the National Home Mission Board treasurer.

Item No. 4—We recommend that this Yearly Meeting adopt the national program of work as much as possible.

Item No. 5—We recommend that if possible funds be raised for the purpose of having minutes of each session of this Yearly Meeting printed and distributed among the churches.

BUSINESS—We, your Committee, recommend the following:

Item No. 1—We recommend that our Constitution Article No. 1 be made to read, "This Yearly Meeting shall convene on

Thursday morning at 9 a.m. before the fourth Sunday in August of each year.

Item No. 2—We recommend that this Yearly Meeting recommend to the Missouri State Association, this fall, the creation of the office of an Executive Secretary of the State of Missouri.

Item No. 3—We recommend that the assessments be raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00 from each church holding membership in our Yearly Meeting, for Yearly Meetings' expenses.

Item No. 4—We recommend that the minutes of the ministers' conference be printed along with the Yearly Meeting Minutes.

Item No. 5—Motion carried that this body give a standing vote of thanks to the Flat River church for the hospitality in entertaining this session of the Yearly Meeting.

Item No. 6—Motion carried to extend the officers of the Yearly Meeting a vote of thanks for their work during the year.

Item No. 7—We recommend that the Executive Board arrange the program for next year's Yearly Meeting.

Financial Report

RECEIVED:

Fredericktown Church, budget	\$4.50
Third Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis	3.50
Flat River Church	4.50
Desloge Church	3.50
Golden Gate Church	1.50
Golden Oak Church	3.00
Mine La Motte Church	3.21
Richwood Church	1.00
Aulsbury Chapel	1.00
Leadington Church	1.00
Old Bethel Church	1.00
Fredericktown Church	1.00
Union Light Church	1.00
Berkley City, budget	4.60

Total received	\$34.31
Balance brought forward August 21, 1942	\$21.78

Total	\$56.09
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DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing Yearly Meeting Minutes	\$15.00
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Postage on mailing State Ass'n. Yearly Meeting Minutes	3.98
National Association fees	5.00
Salary of clerk and treasurer	5.00
Fees for cashing checks	.18
Envelopes and stationary	.30
Missouri State Association share of budget	4.55
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Total paid out	\$34.01
Balance in treasury August 20, 1943	\$22.98

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Conference met in third annual session at the Flat River church August 17 and 18, 1943, carrying out the pre-arranged program. Seven ministers answered roll call. There were several visitors present.

Two powerful and inspiring messages were heard during the conference. Tuesday night, Rev. J. F. Miller delivered the message and on Wednesday morning the message was by Rev. Mark M. Lewis. The entire setting of the Conference was profitable, especially the "demonstration of a church business meeting" as led by Rev. C. B. Dees.

The Ministers' Conference, after adding two amendments, adopted the Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by the committee.

A copy of the same is enclosed herewith.

All the retiring officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Rev. F. C. Zinn was received into membership and full fellowship of the Conference.

The Ministers' Conference by a unanimous standing vote extended their sincere thanks to the Flat River church for their kind hospitality.

— Rev. Mrs. Eunice Edwards, secretary-treasurer.

ORDER OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST MISSOURI YEARLY MEETING WHILE IN REGULAR SESSION

No. 1 — When the delegated body shall meet Thursday morning at 9 o'clock before the fourth Sunday in August of each

year for the transaction of legal business, the Moderator or in his absence, the assistant of the Moderator, shall call the meeting to order, and invite all to take part in congregational singing.

After a sufficient number of songs the Moderator shall read or have read some suitable scripture, then someone shall offer prayer.

No. 2—If it is found that a delegation is present from both quarterly meetings, the Moderator declares a quorum present to transact business.

No. 3—The letters from the quarterly meetings are read and the delegates are seated. All ordained and licensed ministers who are in good standing and full fellowship with some church in the yearly meeting shall by virtue of said authority be made standing delegates in the yearly meeting, also ordained deacons and church clerks together with treasurers.

No. 4—When all delegates, both elected and standing, have been seated the body will then proceed to elect officers as required by rule No. 1 governing the organization. Each officer elected shall be instructed in the duties of the office to which they have been elected. The instructions to be given by the Moderator or someone qualified to do so.

No. 5—The Moderator elected shall at once take charge of the meeting and shall when presented preside over all meetings. In the absence of the Moderator, the assistant Moderator shall preside over the meetings.

No. 6—The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise ruled by the body.

No. 7—The Moderator shall have the privilege to solicit the help of any minister or delegate present in appointing committees.

No. 8—After the organization has been completed, corresponding messengers and visiting brethren from other religious bodies are invited to a seat in council. Should there be letters of greetings or reports from other bodies, they may at this time be read.

No. 9—All items of business coming to this yearly meeting except routine business must come through the business committee or a committee appointed for that special purpose.

No. 10—Before any question can properly be discussed by the delegated body, it must be before the body by a legal motion properly sustained. All questions are settled by a majority vote of the delegates present. When a question is properly before

the body any regular delegate has a right to speak on the subject. No person shall be allowed to speak more than five (5) minutes on any subject at one time and not more than twice on the same subject without special permission from the Moderator.

No. 11—The Moderator shall have power to stop all discussions that are leading to confusion.

No. 12—All persons who are pastors of the churches in the bounds of this yearly meeting are required, when possible at all, to be present at all business meetings and according to the usages of the Free Will Baptist denomination preside over the meetings, encourage the church clerk to keep the minutes and fill out all report blanks to the quarterly meetings and associations.

No. 13—All ministers who are members of this yearly meeting are required to submit in writing a full and complete report of their ministerial labors for the past year. Failure to do so forfeits their rights to their certificate of ministerial standing. These reports will be read to the body and then given to a committee on credentials for further investigation.

No. 14—Official papers of this Yearly Meeting must be signed by the Moderator of the Yearly Meeting and the Secretary.

No. 15—Each quarterly meeting belonging to the yearly meeting shall be entitled to two delegates for the organization and two delegates for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof belonging to the said quarterly meeting.

No. 16—Any person who is a delegate to this Yearly Meeting wishing to speak on any subject properly before the body shall arise and address the chair by saying Bro Moderator or Bro. Chairman, and shall speak no further until they have been recognized by the Moderator.

Signed: James F. Miller

O. B. Womac

Tommie Franklin

BL-LAWS ADOPTED FOR THE BODY

Known As

The Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting of the Free Will Baptist Church, and at the present date, composed of the Madison County Quarterly Meeting and St. Francois Quarterly Meeting of the Free Will Baptist denomination.

No. 1—Governing the organization. The officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. There shall also be an executive board of three or more members who are actively engaged in work of the Free Will Baptist Church in Southeast Missouri.

No. 2—The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

No. 3—Choice of these officers shall be made by nomination, and by legal vote. In cases where there is but one nominee the officer shall be elected by acclamation.

No. 4—The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall not be elected jointly but shall be elected separately by nomination and by legal vote.

No. 5—The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by nomination and by legal vote as the Moderator and Assistant Moderator. He or she will hold the office for one year, and be paid a salary agreed upon by he or she and the body. It shall be the duty of said officer to keep an accurate record of the proceedings in a book or books furnished him or her by the body. The said officer agrees to discharge all the duties of the office willingly in the interest of the cause of the Free Will Baptist everywhere.

No. 6—The Executive Board shall be elected as other officers but shall serve for a term of three years; term to expire alternately. It shall be the duty of said board between sessions of the Yearly Meeting to be in charge of the work in a general way. They shall act as an advising body for each local body composing this Yearly Meeting. They shall at all times have at heart the cause of Christ and the Free Will Baptist denomination and in all cases act without partiality or respect of persons. They agree to discharge their duty or duties faithfully, to work according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the usages of the Yearly Meeting, that they are to serve. Should money or any other property of the Yearly Meeting be entrusted to them they shall handle, hold, convey, and convoy said property with the greatest possible care, and will be able at all times to give a full and complete report of all property to the proper authorities.

Suggest the following By-Laws be added: Changes made must be by the two-third majority of those present.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We Promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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